

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0018] FIG. 1A is an exploded perspective view of a first embodiment of the invention;

[0018a] FIG. 1B illustrates an alternative type of trunnion.

[0031] Referring now to FIG. [1] 1A, the coupling comprises a first member 10 having a rotary axis 10a and which includes an element 11 for receiving or transmitting drive from or to the first member. The member carries three cylindrical sockets 12 each of which has a cylindrical bore 13. The sockets 12 are connected to the element 11 by flexible elements 14 and by parts 15. Preferably the parts 11, 12, 14 and 15 are made as a single moulding of, for example, fibre-reinforced polyamide. The fibre reinforcement may be glass fibre. The member 10 may be joined to a companion flange, not shown, by bolts 16. The longitudinal axes of the bores 13 lie in a single plane and the sockets 12 are equi-angularly spaced about the rotary axis 10a.

[0034] FIG. [1A] 1B shows an alternative type of trunnion 21a having a part spherical surface 24a. The centres of these surfaces for all the trunnions lie in a plane perpendicular to the rotary axis 17a.

[0035] Turning now to FIG. 2, the coupling comprises three members; the first and third members are identical. The first member is indicated generally at 25 and is identical in construction to the second member 17 shown in FIG. [1] 1A and will not be described further except to say that the trunnions have heads 26 with circumferential cylindrical surfaces 27. The third member is shown at 25a, is identical to the first member 25 and has a rotary axis 25b.

[0038] The sockets 29 are interconnected by flexible elements 41 which are thinner in the middle than at the ends and which form a ring with the sockets 29 so that the second member 28 can be moulded as one piece. The flexible elements 41 are parallel to and include the plane containing the axes 32 of the bores 31. Articulation of the first and third members is permitted by the flexibility of the elements 41 and the movement of the trunnion heads in the bores 31. Some relative axial

movement is also permitted by the flexibility of the elements 41. As in FIG. [[1]] 1A, each socket 29 and trunnion forms a pin and socket joint connecting the first member to the second member or the second member to the third member.

[0064] It will be seen that in each of the embodiments the first and second members are connected by pin and socket joints which are equi-angularly spaced around the rotary axes of the members. Where a third member is provided as in FIGS. 2 to 14, the second member and the third member are also connected by pin and socket joints. The flexibility of the coupling is provided in the arrangement of FIGS. 2 to 14 by flexibly interconnecting the sockets. In FIG. [[1]] 1A the parts 14 provide a flexible interconnection of the sockets via the element 11.

[0065] In FIG. [[1]] 1A the flexibility of the coupling is provided by the flexible elements 14. However the trunnions 21 could be flexibly mounted on the second member 17 in place of, or in addition to, the flexible elements 14.